June 23, 2020

AAAS Statement on Executive Order on Immigration and Visas

"Restricting immigration does not make America great or safe. The United States has benefited immensely from the free exchange of knowledge and ideas. For many decades, the U.S. had been a welcoming place for immigrant and non-immigrant scientists making significant contributions to science and technology that directly benefit us all. Immigrants lead and support research throughout this country to develop medical treatments, track the spread of COVID-19, improve food safety, and much more. Preventing highly-skilled scientists and postdocs from entering the U.S. will harm American science and threatens our scientific leadership. Elected policymakers have an important responsibility as they consider policies and legislative options that address immigration and national security. Many of the proposed 'solutions' risk further isolating the United States and exacerbating the perception that our nation is no longer welcoming. We cannot afford to cede leadership to other countries who will gladly welcome scientists and students in our place."

— Sudip Parikh, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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